(b) and (c) A Special Group has been set up by the Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth Five Year plan.

Compensation payable to workers

550. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation payable to the workers under the Workmen's Compensation Act in the case of death and permanent total disability;

(b) whether the minimum amount of compensation is likely to be raised in the case of death and permanent total disability;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Labour and Welfare, the Workmen's Compensation Act has been amended with effect from 8.12.2000 wherein the minimum rate of compensation for permanent total disablement and death have been fixed at Rs. 90,000/- and Rs. 80,000/- respectively, as against the previous rates of Rs. 60,000/- and Rs. 50,000/- respectively. The maximum amount of compensation can go up to Rs. 5,48,496/- for permanent total disablement and upto Rs. 4,57,080/- for death.

Need for labour reforms

551. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, at the meeting of the Council of Trade and Industry held in New Delhi on September 7, 2001, stressed on the need for speedy labour reforms;

(b) if so, the objectives contemplated for such labour reforms and in what precise context and background these observations were made; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) In the context of legislative actions required for the economic reforms, the Hon'ble Prime Minister at the meeting of the Council on Trade and Industry held on 7th September, 2001 assured initiation of labour